

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8, as follows:

According to the invention during the spreading-open process metal faces act mechanically on one another, which determine the spreading-open process securely and reliably. It has unexpectedly been found that the O-ring seal considered necessary according to prior art according to Fig. 1 and according to EP 1 441 143 185 A1 at the front side of the clamping collar can be omitted, whereby for the improved functioning capability of the connecting device according to the invention this structural component is additionally also saved.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 24, as follows:

Within the scope of this inventive concept it is further proposed to fabricate the function section of a metal and the actuation section of an elastically compliant material, such as a synthetic material, such that the latching tongues can be lent the requisite resilient elasticity. In this embodiment of the invention the circumferential flange can be provided on the actuation section, such that a simple displacement of the actuation ~~section via~~ section, the O-ring seal and the arresting ~~[sic: function]~~ section ~~[off]~~ as part of the clamping collar is possible from the axially outer arresting position into the axially inner starting position (release position).